MONTEREY NEWS

April 2019
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Pick up at: the library (in and outside), town hall, community center, Roadside Cafe, Bracken-Brae farm stand, Swap Shop, Church foyer

"That's interesting," I said, "I'd get nervous running into a burning building," which I should clarify is an understatement. I actually don't know if I could do it at all.
From the Meetinghouse page 2

Here's what we do know—the hunt will be happening this year on Sunday, April 21, at 1 p.m. sharp. It never lasts more than fifteen minutes or so, so plan on being early and not late.
Easter Egg Hunt page 11

The duo hasn't appeared together in years, and why they were willing to come to Monterey is a bit of a mystery.
Free Concert page 19

The word "sugar" carries a handy U in its spelling. The red maple leaf has no U's in the angles between the lobes, rather V's. Sugar maple: U. Red maple: not. Rather a V.
The Maple Sisters page 22

Bonsai Cox

Sap dripping at Gould Farm. A lot about trees in this issue. The maple sisters, roots, and an Arbor Quest.

"We want to do what is appropriate for Monterey and be more energy efficient without costing the town a lot of money," said select board member Carol Edelman.
Monterey Street Lights page 18

For the April potluck, we will be showing the hour-long movie *Monterey Lights the Way*, the story of Monterey's award-winning project almost thirty years ago.
Community Potluck page 5

Jessica Oakely, a family friend, established a Go Fund Me page called the Emily Newman & Jeremy Stanton Fire Recovery Fund.
Letters page 10

To truly see the visible tree standing primarily in light and air is also to know the invisible tree anchored in earth. The whole thing is 'tree', nurtured above ground and below.
Roots page 20

Nadia described the amazing night of the recent "super moon" when she and her dad went cross country skiing on Lake Garfield.
Who's Who page 17

There are plans underway to plant a tree on Sunday, April 28, at the community center. Learn to size and estimate a tree's age for the Arbor Quest.
Arbor Day page 5

She was a master seamstress who made clothing and quilts for her family. She was one of the original members of the Monterey Piecemakers quilting group.
Shirley Olds page 13

Who's that turkey in the window?

During my tenure on the select board there were many disagreements. We dealt with them by acting respectfully to each other and "agreeing to disagree."
Candidate Statement page 10

It works to create a movement that values kindness, compassion, humility, and gratitude, inspired by Martin Luther King Jr.'s vision of the "beloved community."
Project 351 page 3

From the Meetinghouse

A number of years ago, I asked a local firefighter to give a talk about his life and work. His face became overcast at the thought of it. "Ugh," he said, "I get so nervous speaking in public, I don't think I can do that."

"That's interesting," I said, "I'd get nervous running into a burning building," which I should clarify is an understatement. I actually don't know if I could do it at all.

He laughed at this, as did I. No doubt, I, as a preacher, and therefore a regular "public speaker," have the easier part in life.

Running into a burning building, though, is the least of what some of our South County firefighters had to do last month. Sheffield has recently suffered some terrible losses—a young man lost in car crash, a young woman lost in a plane crash, a whole family lost to fiery violence, forced upon the mother and her children who didn't survive, forced then upon our first responders who had to make sense of the monstrous scene before them.

My heart goes to them all, and I imagine I speak for every south county resident when I say our regular appreciation for what they do was amped up over the course of late winter.

Now it is early spring, and this month we at church will speak in terms of Resurrection—resurrection, which is a setting of things to right. Think of what an insurrection might aim to be. This is what Christians understand the resurrection in fact to be. A setting of things to right. An innocent man stood accused, was "tried," and then was executed in most cruel and brutal way—which was then set to right in his yet living among us. It was a mighty act, to be sure. It's funny to imagine it also as a simple act. You knock something down, and then (whoops) you pick it back up.

The stakes are higher than this, of course. The stakes are actually as high as can be. Really, Easter, if it means anything at all, means we have to be willing to search for a setting of things to right amidst all the places where things have gone wrong, even terribly wrong, especially terribly wrong.

I remember being new to ministry, new to preaching. I remember deciding as I was just starting out that I wanted my work to prove capable of taking on the big, systemic, persistent problems of being human. I wanted my theological thinking, my prayer life, and my liturgical leadership to be capable of reaching into the deepest depths of human experience. I was clear that that if Christianity can't plumb the depths of gulag and killing field, of world war and global warming, of slavery and Holocaust and atomic bomb, then I want no part of it. I didn't want to spend my life with platitudes. I didn't want a life of faith that was a matter of turning that frown upside down, and I didn't want to proclaim such pabulum to others as if it were profound enough to address what we actually need to address, what we actually to confess.

So we'll see, was my attitude, a young woman whose life had been mostly easy most of the time. We'll see how much of a beating this gospel message can actually take. And as soon as I reach its limit, I'll quit, I'll find something else to do with my life.

I haven't reached that limit. Eighteen years of beating this truth weekly, preparing to preach the life out of it just in case I can, it has proven like a rug I'm trying beat empty of dust: the grains of truth just keep coming.

There's a lot in life that would have us give up. Much of that was practically at our door this past March, and some few of us had to burst through that door on the other side of which flames of nihilism were eating where hope and meaning might have lived. Please know that those of us who haven't the courage storm that door are yet keeping a warm fire of faith in the hope that this too is powerful.

Stop in some time if you're in need of this warmth.

—Pastor Liz Goodman
United Church of Christ

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Project 351

One day last spring, during eighth grade, I was called down to the guidance office. I was confused as it was, and when I arrived I found four other classmates, which didn't help me figure out the why we were there. Soon, I was told we had been chosen to represent our towns for Project 351, which I had heard of, but when I got on a bus to go to Boston a few weeks later, I still wasn't sure what I was getting myself into. Project 351 describes itself as, "Uniting Massachusetts through youth service and leadership." But Project 351 is much more than gathering one ambassador from every town and city in Massachusetts, or even training the youth of the commonwealth—it's about creating the movement makers of today in their own communities, and tomorrow in the world.

Project 351 unites eight-grade students from every town and city in Massachusetts to engage in service. It works to create a movement that values kindness, compassion, humility, and gratitude, inspired by Martin Luther King Jr.'s vision of the "beloved community." Ambassadors engage in three service projects throughout the year that train them in leadership and mobilize their communities. Since 2011, over 620,000 neighbors in Massachusetts have been impacted through youth-led projects for a positive change.

The year of service starts with Launch Day. All 351 ambassadors gather at Faneuil Hall to learn about the core values of Project 351 and get a start on the projects ahead. Ambassadors are assigned to a service team, in honor of forty-five different service heroes ranging from our very own Smitty Pignatelli to Congressman John Lewis. Every Project 351 event is jam-packed with service, from making scarves for Pine Street Inn, to sorting toys at Cradles to Crayons. The day closes off with an invitation to go home and lead "Spring Service" in each ambassador's own community.

Spring Service is the kick-off to a year of learning and serving. Project 351 provides training, inspiration, and encouragement for ambassadors who organize clothing drives. Alumni mentors and our peers collaborate on ideas, and ambassadors are encouraged to create leadership teams that engage other members of the community. Ambassadors learn how to efficiently publicize events, reach out to different parts of the community, make necessary change, and ultimately learn the significance of service and the huge difference it can make in everyone's life.

Donations from the clothing drive go to Cradles to Crayons, which is an organization that supports children who are in low-income families, homeless, or in an emergency situation. One in seven children in Massachusetts lives in a household with very low income. Volunteers learn the importance of how quality means dignity, as members of their own communities who are in need will benefit from this clothing. Spring Service has impacted 97,421 children through Cradles to Crayons, since the start in 2011.

Spring Service is followed by ambassadors uniting for Reunion at Gillette Stadium. There is more leadership training, team building, and of course service! There is an annual walk in support of the Martin Richard Foundation, materials are gathered for organizations such as Wonderfund, cards are made, and other varying service projects.

Over the summer ambassadors lead a tribute service in honor of 9/11. Similar to Spring Service, this is a fully student-lead drive to support troops in the military and veterans. Some ambassadors are chosen to go to Boston to put packs together and meet volunteers for the Massachusetts Military Hero Fund, to which donations go.

Ambassadors close out the year with Fall service, a food drive in support of one of the local food pantries. Ambassadors learn how to make strong connections with cornerstone partners to donate to. Last year in Monterey we had a very successful drive, donating 230 pounds of food to the Sheffield Food Pantry.

Although Fall service is the close of the ambassador year, everyone is invited to keep serving. Alumni can participate in service, or can apply to be part of the Alumni Leadership Council, or the ALC. Members of the ALC play key roles in the ambassador journey. Different sections have different roles, such as the Alumni Mentoring Corps, who are the team leaders for launch day.

Even though Project 351 ends senior year, alumni can never forget the values, skills, and inspiration. Many alumni, and even present members, have started non-profits for causes they care about and engaged their community more with frequent service.

Since last spring I have had the honor of representing Monterey. When I started off I wasn't sure where I was going, or if I would continue with Project 351, but what I have learned about myself and others has been an invaluable experience. One of the best things about it, is learning more about Monterey and the community we have. I had no idea we could collect enough food for over two hundred meals, and I have learned so much by talking to people about donating. I hope that in the future Monterey can keep being a big part of something huge.

This year the ambassador for Monterey is Sophia Krans, who, together with ambassadors from school, has been organizing spring service. I have had the opportunity to participate in the Regional Unity Corps, which is a part of the Alumni Leadship Council dedicated to uniting ambassadors and alumni in the Berkshire County region.

Project 351 has not only offers immense opportunities, and teaches the need for service and change in our world, but also inspires youth to make a change and lead in their own community.

—Nadia Makuc

CHILDREN'S BOOK, TOY, AND
CLOTHING DRIVE
WHAT?
gently used and like new children's
• clothing |sizes 0-20 and adult small or medium
• footwear and outerwear
• toys and books
• brand new socks and pajamas
WHERE?
Monterey Community Center and Town Hall
through March and early April
WHY?
to support Cradles to Crayons, which provides necessities for 300,000 children in Massachusetts who are homeless or in high risk situations
QUESTIONS? COMMENTS?
Nadia Makuc | nadiamakuc10@gmail.com |413-528-5834
PROJECT 351
Cradles to Crayons

Having a Good Day

- Not having to hear about, read about, report on the select board thrust-and-and parry fencing match.

Council on Aging
Spring Activities

Movie night will be on Tuesday, April 9, at 7 p.m., at town hall. We will try again to show Don Clawson's recommendation, *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society*, a historical romantic drama. We now have (we think) the adaptor necessary to show the film that came in from Germany. Popcorn will be served, thanks to Maureen and Michael Banner.

Join us on Thursday, April 11, at 12:30, for lunch at the Roadside.

The Berkshire Visiting Nurse will hold a wellness clinic on Thursday, April 11, from 2 to 3 p.m., at town hall. No appointment is necessary.

The The Council on Aging board meets on Mondays, April 8, and 22, at town hall. We welcome townspeople to our meetings and are actively seeking new members.

We have upcoming activities to look forward to in May and June: an AARP safe driving course, and a MassBar elder law attorney lecture where we can choose the topic (we would love to have input on this, the MassBar program book is in the CoA office at town hall.) We are also planning a trip by bus to the top of Mount Greylock for lunch at the Bascom Lodge when it warms up a little. Happy Spring!

—Kyle Pierce

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Get a Jump on Earth Day
The Berkshire Earth Expo

For the past three years, Living the Change Berkshires has been hosting a springtime Berkshire Earth Expo. Art, movies, presentations, kid's activities, discussion, nonprofits, and vendors have all encouraged people to make climate- and energy-smart choices.

This year is more action-oriented than ever—student exhibits and vendors aim to inspire visitors to the 2019 Expo to pledge or take immediate actions that will save money or energy and reduce carbon pollution. Visitors will be able to book energy efficiency assessments for their home, join a community solar project, write a postcard to their legislator, learn about special state programs for households of all levels of income and much more.

"These actions will be tracked, collated, and followed up on so we can, as a community, learn just how big our collective impact is," said Uli Nagel, the project leader.

You are encouraged to bring family and friends to the Expo on April 6, from 11a.m. to 4 p.m., at the Boys and Girls Club of the Berkshires, 16 Melville St, Pittsfield. Enjoy free, creative activities for kids of all ages, eat good food, and take advantage of ways in which we can live healthier, more comfortable and affordable lives, all while protecting our future on the earth.

—Janet Jensen

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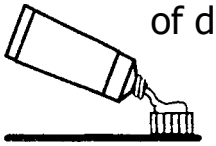
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Community Potluck Supper
Wednesday, April 17

There was an overflow crowd at the March potluck for Valerie Zantay's presentation and video on walking the Camino de Santiago pilgrimage trail in Spain last year. Valerie, Lissa McGovern, and Ginny Miller spoke about the significance of the walk, and there were others in the audience who shared their experiences. Thanks to Valerie, Lissa, and Ginny for an meaningful evening.

For the April potluck, we will be showing the hour-long movie *Monterey Lights the Way*, the story of Monterey's award-winning project almost thirty years ago. In 1990, residents of Monterey entered and won an International Energy Conservation Contest to see how much energy could be saved. The film highlights interviews with many of our neighbors, many of whom have been invited to join us at the potluck.

The next Monterey Community Potluck Dinner will be held on Wednesday, April 17, at 6 p.m., in the Fellowship Hall of the Monterey Meetinghouse. Please bring a dish to share with a serving utensil, and a place setting and silverware for yourself.

Please join us-everyone is welcome.

—Kyle Pierce

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Monterey Community Center Events

Learn to Knit: Have you always wanted to learn to knit but didn't know where to start? Experienced and talented knitter Molly Goodchild will offer a three-session class to learn the basics of knitting on Wednesday afternoons, April 3, 10, and 17, from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Class size is limited. Yarn and needles will be supplied. Cost: $25.

Writer's Workout: Save the date: May 18, for this workshop with Sonia Pilcer.

Gardeners: The community garden has some spaces available. Please get in touch by phone or email now (see below for contact info) if you are interested in an 8' x 16' plot for organic growing.

Climate Change Consciousness

The MCC will be one of the local hubs for events from and inspired by the conference held at Findhorn Community, Findhorn, Scotland, April 20-26. See the CCC website for that at ccc19.org. We will show two videos from Findhorn, with discussion:

Wednesday, April 24, 7 p.m. Navajo activist, artist, ceremonial leader and international speaker Pat McCabe draws on the deep indigenous sciences of thriving life to reframe the quest for sustainability. From the Global EcoVillage Summit, screening /discussion. Free

Thursday, April 25, 7 p.m. Renowned environmentalist Bill McKibben gives the opening keynote for the CCC19 conference, presented by video. Screening / discussion. Free

Arbor Day tree planting: Arbor Day is Friday, April 25. There are plans underway to plant a tree on Sunday, April 28, at the community center, with a speaker. There will be a demonstration and an opportunity to practice measuring a tree to size and age it for the Monterey Arbor Quest. (See Arbor Quest on page 16.)

Ongoing activities

Darn Yarners: First and third Thursday of each month (April 4 and 18), from 1 to 3 p.m. This is an informal group of fiber artists (knit, stitch, mend, spin, crochet and such) meeting to work on individual projects in a somewhat social setting. No cost. Facilitated by Wendy Jensen.

Ping Pong: Adult ping pong continues to bounce back and forth between Saturdays and Thursdays. In April, join us on Thursdays, April 4 and 18, from 3:30, and on Saturdays, April 13 and 27, 2 p.m. Please come and enjoy the thrill of play with your friends and neighbors. Free.

More events are in the works. Join us for a bird walk in May, and for other activities later: Mosaics workshop, knife sharpening class, and more.

See our Event Calendar: Visit us at any time through our website (ccmonterey.org), where you will find the Event Calendar, use policies and other information, and where you can donate to the center through PayPal. You can always contact Mary Makuc, Event Coordinator, at 413-528-3600 or calendar@ccmontery.org. We thank you for your support!

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In My View
Fact Check

During nearly three years I have been on Monterey Select Board, it has been my pleasure to serve among some outstanding public servants, people who have dedicated substantial time, energy, and expertise doing good for the residents and town of Monterey. At the top of the long list of dedicated professionals with whom I have been honored to serve are select board member Kenn Basler and administrative assistant Melissa Noe. So I find it particularly inaccurate and inappropriate that board member Don Coburn has singled them out for criticism, and falsely accused them of wrongdoing.

Perhaps truth can help. To fact check a couple of examples: Kenn received no special treatment, no "gift" from Fiber Connect for his personal connection to broadband service. He received exactly the same promotional installation discount offered to everyone in town who signed up in advance of service availability. This was easily confirmed and approved by the MA State Ethics Commission. Don's implication that Kenn's receipt of Fiber Connect's installation discount influenced his behavior when attempting to secure better broadband access for the town is insulting and absolutely false, and he knows it.

Another sleazy charge Don makes is that "a Montereyan" (anonymous, of course) gave him a draft report critical of Melissa Noe with regard to interpersonal interactions. After looking into this accusation, the truth is that the report was vigorously rejected by a clear majority of members of the Restructuring Committee. It was fed to Don by a cowardly unnamed source who had no business publishing it.

Don knew he was deliberately twisting the facts to smear valuable public servants, and he continues to do so. This is dishonest and offensive.

Let's focus on and continue the positive achievements enabled during the time I have been a member of the board—development of the library, transfer station, community center, effective housing rehabilitation grants, road and bridge improvements, increased professionalism and accountability in financial operations, establishing strong relationships with our non-profit communities, maintaining a low tax rate in the face of ever increasing expenses and challenges. I have enjoyed getting to know many fine residents, volunteers, town employees, working alongside us for the good of the community.

I reject Don's preoccupation with procedure over meaningful policy, negativity over positive initiatives and progress. We are better than this.

—Carol Edelman
Monterey Select Board

Editor's Note: In My View *is a monthly feature for this paper. . The views expressed are solely those of the writer, and are not meant to reflect the views of the full select board.*

Lake Garfield Working Group

The Lake Garfield Working Group met at the town hall on Monday, March 11, to review progress with both current and future efforts to monitor and influence issues impacting the health of the lake.

Among these it was noted that the select board agreed to pursue the 2019 Mass DEP 319 grant of $100,000 targeting the surface water inputs of phosphorus to the lake.

Another effort under development involves EPA funding in conjunction with the New England Lakes and Ponds Association (LAPA) to provide for a program of monitoring cyanobacteria in Berkshire County lakes through the participating professors and students at Berkshire Community College.

A report was given on the ongoing work of the Housatonic Valley Association in their efforts to survey local rivers, including the Konkapot, and contacts made to integrate our shared objectives.

Lastly, it was noted that in order to ensure a continued effort for the evidenced-based scientific research of the health of Lake Garfield, as well as to obtain additional funding to mitigate the adverse impact of invasive pond weed, a citizens petition will be presented for the inclusion of an article to this effect on the town warrant for the Annual Town Meeting on May 4.

The next meeting of the working group is Monday, April 8, at 7 p.m., at the town hall.

—Steve Snyder
Chair, Lake Garfield Working Group

Town Elections
Tuesday, May 7

The year's election for town officers will be held on Tuesday, May 7. Polls will be open from 12 noon until 7 p.m., at the Monterey town hall. Below is the slate for the elections. Incumbents are indicated by asterisks. Party affiliation, or Independent status, is noted in parentheses for contested seats.

This list is as accurate as could be when going to print. Information for this list came from party committees, the town clerk's office, and any candidates who contacted the *Monterey News* directly.

Contested Seats

Constable (3 years)
Kevin Fitzpatrick (R)
Julio Rodriquez (D)

Uncontested Seats

Board of Appeals (Zoning) (5 years)
Jonathan Levin* (R)
Board of Assessors (3 year)
Stan Ross* (R)
Board of Assessors (1 year)
Gary Shaw* (D & R)
Board of Health (3 years)
Julio Rodriquez* (R)
Cemetery Commission (3 years)
James Dutcher (R)
Finance Committee (3 years)
Jonathan Sylbert* (D & R)
Library Trustee (3 years, vote for 2)
Lisa Smyle* (R & D)
Mickey Jervas* (D & R)
Moderator (1 year)
Mark Makuc* (D & R)
Parks Commission (3 years, vote for 2)
Steve Snyder (R)
Julio Rodriquez* (D & R)
Parks Commission (1 year)
Wendy Benjamin (D & R)
Planning Board (5 years, vote for 2)
Tom Sawyer* (R)
Roger Tryon* (D & R)
Planning Board (3 years)
Nancy Marcus* (R & D)
Select Board (3 years)
Steven Weisz (D & R)
Tax Collector (3 years)
Mari Enoch* (R & D)
Tree Warden (1 year)
Kevin Fitzpatrick* (R & D)

In My View
Why are we becoming so negative?

There's a common saying in the business world that people leave managers, not companies—and the same can be said for why people stay at an organization and remain engaged. People work for their managers, not for the company. Having a positive, mutual relationship is important for employee satisfaction. It's also important for those in charge to create a working environment that not only encourages quality work but allows employees to reach their full potential. We have filled positions in town government with individuals, both paid and volunteers, that work tirelessly to bring to the residents exceptional service.

So why the recent spat of negativity? What makes an individual who is elected to leadership use that position to disparage residents who have stepped forward to offer assistance to the town. Calling individuals liars when they don't agree with your position, catching someone in a contradiction that is then exploited and spun to create a negative narrative, not interacting with employees you don't like, it's all rather childish.

Leadership is about looking ahead. If you can't look past yourself and towards the greater good, it's not leadership. To tear others down so that you look better only ends up making you look the fool.

Using bits and pieces of information to try and create a negative narrative stifles the creativeness and innovation that Monterey is known for. It also sends the wrong message to our residents. We are a small town and it's becoming harder and harder each year to fill both the elected and volunteer positions that are needed to run the town. It's also difficult to avoid the "conflict of interest" law when you have a small pool of candidates. There was much written about this problem in the last Monterey News and frankly, it's "troubling" when so much is made of so little, or nothing.

Monterey is not defined by its difficulties but our accomplishments. Our ability to overcome the difficulties is what makes living in Monterey the experience it is. This negativity has to stop. We are better than that My experience is that when we are all rowing in the same direction—nothing can stop us.

—Kenn Basler
Monterey Select Board

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In My View

Marijuana, Mullin Rule, Broadband

With May's annual town meeting fast approaching, three issues strike me as particularly worthy of comment. The first two concern warrant items; the third is the status of broadband in Monterey.

Marijuana

I proposed the warrant establishing a ban on the retail sale and wholesale production of marijuana in Monterey. My colleagues on the select board agreed. In part, we are taking this course because the planning board has not yet addressed the issue by offering a zoning amendment on the subject. Consequently, the town is presently governed by the standards created by the state. In short, we have no local control at all. We have a few options: we can leave matters as they are, use local zoning initiated by the planning board to limit the marijuana business in various ways, or entirely ban the business until the town decides otherwise. The other reason for proposing the ban is that there is a great difference between voting to decriminalize marijuana (as I think we properly did on the original state referendum) and encouraging its use, especially in our own town, by having retail outlets or commercial production. The select board firmly believes that this issue should be decided by the voters of Monterey, first at town meeting and then, as required by state law, at the election a few days later.

The Mullin Rule

The warrant on the "Mullin" rule may seem technical, but it is important. Currently, when hearings are held by various town boards, if a member misses a meeting, that member may not vote on the case. The adoption of this warrant means that the member will be able to participate fully and vote provided he or she listens to the recording of the missed meeting. Some may recall that this issue arose during the conservation commission's consideration of the library plan. A citizen noted that one commission member had missed a meeting and asked if that member could participate. The chair ruled that the member was sufficiently familiar with the proceedings to vote. Fortunately, that ruling was not challenged (and cannot be challenged now). Consequently, a distressing delay was avoided. But there is no point in taking that risk again.

Broadband

Broadband will not be on the warrant this May, but there are developments worth describing. In late 2018, the select board issued a request for proposals (RFP) to all broadband providers. Although we doubted that any company other than Fiber Connect (FC) would reply, which is what happened, our counsel had advised that this was a necessary step before we engaged in negotiations with FC.

I believe all members of the select board recognize that the successful introduction of fiber optic broadband will in all likelihood come from FC or not at all. The critical issue for us is whether and to what extent, we should put the town's money at risk to obtain the wiring of Phase III, which involves about 235 houses out of our housing stock of about 850.

FC's January 7, 2019, "Response to RFP," which may be seen at town hall, begins with the statement that it "is committed to building and providing oversight for Phase I and Phase II entirely at the "expense of the company…." It then states that "[t]he buildout of phases beyond I and II [i.e. Phase III] can be accomplished either via: 1. Revenue-based growth over several years with final coverage percentage dependent on generated income." It then lists two other approaches, both of which involve substantial risk to the town's treasury; namely government funding in one way or another.

In last month's *Monterey News*, FC wrote what it described as a "Fiber Connect Update." Unfortunately, it was misleading in certain important respects. For example, FC wrote that the broadband committee "recommended acceptance to the select board (of its bid)." But that bid concerned mostly technical matters and contained none of FC's monetary demands. All the broadband committee did was indicate that its technical requirements had been met, thus justifying negotiation on the critical issues of costs and other FC obligations to the citizens of Monterey. Although the select board has accepted free internet service from FC at the library and elsewhere, and given FC some ground easements to which it was entitled as a matter of right, the town has not otherwise entered into a business relation with this company. Although the select board has been trying to work matters out with FC, it has not in any way actually endorsed the company or committed itself to risking money on the venture.

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FC has been working in Monterey from time-to-time for over two years and has only finished the first phase of the three phases intended to bring us to 96% coverage. After about two years of negotiation it has still not concluded "make ready" agreements with the utilities regarding the cost of poles to be modified or replaced for Phase II. That is disappointing and worrisome. Its application to MBI for funding was rejected in 2017 largely because it refused to make the required financial disclosures. As a result, Monterey is in the process of making its own application to MBI while trying to make a sensible and prudent contract with Fiber Connect. Yet, FC persists in refusing to allow public access to its financials. All the company did was provide its own unaudited financial statements to our accountant. And that submission was made at FC's insistence and with the select board's agreement that the select board would not even have access to the information. That process has resulted in a letter from the accountant saying that the data submitted looked all right but warning that we should not proceed without audited statements. FC has consistently refused to provide anyone with audited statements, and there is no reason to suppose that it ever will. So, when it comes to FC, we are dealing with an impenetrable black box. Although FC tries to make much of its apparently wealthy investor, it has no written agreement with the investor and it refuses to give any details about the investor's obligations to FC. Nonetheless, and interestingly enough, our accountant has expressed the opinion that Fiber Connect "has more than enough working capital . . . to complete the process without upfront public funding." If that is true, one may wonder why we are even thinking about risking public funds.

In response to my request, FC has provided in writing its financial demands for completing the last 30% of the town.

- $100,000 on the day it applies to the utilities for pole "make-ready" costs.
- $650,000 on the day it and the utilities agree to the "make-ready" costs.
- $100,000 on the day FC starts wiring.
- 250,000 on the day it completes construction.

Conveniently, those figures total $1,100,000, which is the total MBI grant. And yet, when FC applied to MBI in 2017, it sought only $680,000 for the work for which it now wants $1.1 million. Prices often go up, but that's an increase of about 61% in two years. Also, note that it is asking for $750,000 for "make-ready" costs when it has no indication from the utilities about the actual cost they will charge for that work. I should think a fair request for "make-ready" would be the utilities' charge plus say 10 or 15% with the town paying the utilities' charge directly. It is important to remember that FC is essentially a one-man entity. Monterey should not risk FC going out of business before the money is passed on to the utilities.

The town might want to focus on another aspect of this matter: the rules laid down by MBI. Perhaps the most troublesome rule, which MBI recently reaffirmed, is that it will not pay any money until the project is completed and operating profitably with a 51% take-rate. That means that 51% of the houses passed must have accepted FC's service. To date, FC has only achieved a take-rate in Monterey of somewhere between 33 1/3% and maybe 40%. If we borrow the $1.1 million and don't receive the MBI grant, our banker says that we will have spent in interest and capital over $1.7 million with no guarantee that we will ever have an operating system.

Also, the town may want to consider this. The last third of our housing stock consists of about 235 homes. If we don't receive the MBI grant, we will eventually spend about $1.7 million from the town's treasury on passing those last homes. That cost would be over $7,000 per house. At a 50% take-rate, the cost of providing actual service to each house would be around $14,500. At a 40% take-rate, the cost of providing actual service to each house would be around $18,000. Perhaps thought should be given as to whether it is fair to ask the other some 600 or so homeowners to make that sacrifice.

As you can see, for the present, I favor FC's first proposed option—namely, letting capitalism take its course. If FC completes Phase II, that option might well be reconsidered. Also, for now I will assist my colleagues in the negotiations with FC and MBI. Why? Because broadband is an issue to be decided in all respects by the people, fully informed, and assembled at town meeting.

—Don Coburn
Monterey Select Board

Editor's Note: In My View *is a monthly feature for this paper. . The views expressed are solely those of the writer, and are not meant to reflect the views of the full select board.*

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Candidate Statement
Steven Weisz–Select Board

My name is Steven Weisz and I am running for Monterey Select Board.

There are two main reasons that I running for another term on the select board.

The first reason is to help move Monterey forward. We have made important strides in the past few years. Our town has a new community center, we have put our finances in order, our transfer station and roads are the envy of most other towns. Soon we will open a new library, a new general store and have full cellular service. I am proud to have served on the previous select boards that have made this happen. Our new challenges include obtaining more state money for our town's infrastructure, developing strategies to serve our aging population, and encouraging new people to get involved in town government.

The second reason is more important. I am running to help tone down the rancor and rhetoric that has appeared on the board and on the pages of the *Monterey News*. I can assure you that during my tenure on the select board there were many disagreements. We dealt with them by acting respectfully to each other and "agreeing to disagree." There were times where things got "heated," but each one of us realized that the town's business came first. The current state of affairs will stifle any progress... and then we all lose.

I promise you that if elected to the select board, I will do everything in my power to have the Monterey Select Board work as a team, so that we can all move forward... together.

Thank you,
—Steven Weisz

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Candidate Statement
Jon Sylbert–Finance Committee

Dear voters,

I am running for reelection to the Monterey Finance Committee. According to the Division of Local Services, which publishes "A Guide to Financial Management for Town Officials," "The primary duties of a finance committee are to advise and make recommendations to town meeting on the budget and other areas of finance." During my first term, the finance committee reestablished its role as an independent committee responsible for submitting its own budget at town meeting. Over the last three years, we have regained control of a budget that, during the prior five years (FY13-FY17), resulted in annual increases in the "average single-family tax bill" of 8.1% on average, capped by a whopping 17.3% increase in FY2017. (Since FY2012, the "average single family tax bill" in Monterey has increased from $2,795 to $4,157.) We are now running at a moderate 3.4% (FY20 estimated based on the current budget), higher than inflation but far more acceptable. There is more work to do. With George Cain and Rebecca Wolin, we have a strong finance committee dedicated to providing the town the services it needs at a competitive price. Thank you for your support.

—Jonathan Sylbert

Letters

Dear friends and neighbors,

Early Friday morning, my daughter Emily and her husband Jeremy's gorgeous house in the center of Southfield burned to the ground. Mercifully, no one was injured, but the loss is devastating. Among the burned timbers and ash, a lifetime of accumulated possessions have all vanished. Essentially, everything Emily, Jeremy, Nina, and Lucca had is gone—the things money can replace, and those that are irreplaceable. It's heartbreaking and hard to fathom. And it could happen to any of us.

Many in our community have asked me if there is anything they can do. There is something—Jessica Oakely, a family friend, established a Go Fund Me page called the Emily Newman & Jeremy Stanton Fire Recovery Fund. If you are inclined, a contribution would be greatly appreciated and a huge help until the family is back on their feet.

Many thanks to all of you who have expressed love and concern, and willingness to help. We live in a very special community. For that I am profoundly grateful.

With great affection,

—Tim Newman

From *Maggie's List*, in New Marlborough. Sent in by Karen Shreefter.

It's cold outside, let Roadside cook dinner for you!

We are now offering weekly dinner specials, ready to heat and serve at home. April Specials include: Macaroni and Cheese, Meatloaf, and Beef Chili. Try our Cubanos, Burritos, and our New Roadside Burger

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Library notes

Easter Egg Hunt

I'm sure that some of you are wondering about the annual egg hunt that has been a tradition at the Monterey Library. The Friends of the Monterey Library have been wondering as well. Unfortunately, as fast as the project has been progressing, the new site will not be finished in time for the hunt. Here's what we do know—the hunt will be happening this year on Sunday, April 21, at 1 p.m. sharp. What we don't know yet is where. Weather will be a factor and we want to make sure the location works out. So we have a few alternatives and if you come to the center of town between the fire station and the community center you will see the sandwich board sign at the location. It never lasts more than fifteen minutes or so, so plan on being early and not late. We hope to see lots of children scooping up eggs!

Friends of the Library

This won't be the first time or last time, but now is a good time to thank the Friends of the Monterey Library for their hard work raising money. There are many extras, such as furniture, that the Friends have stepped up to fund, that will make this library a warm and welcoming place. The Friends have done a phenomenal job at being there to support this project. They, along with the Monterey Cultural Council, are funding the children's summer programming for July and August, and we hope that the performances will be in the new multipurpose room. Make sure you bring the children to the library on Saturday mornings this summer for some very special performances.

Library Renovation Project

The project is moving right along. By the time you read this the interior painting will be mostly complete. The outside work slowed down because of mud season but has picked up again and things look like they will finish on, or very near, schedule. As the space begins to look more finished the Trustees are hard at work picking through furniture catalogs and planning the final details.

See page 25 for recent photos from the project blog.

—Mark Makuc
Library Director
MontereyMassLibrary.org

Monterey Community Potluck Suppers

Join us April 17 to watch:
"Monterey Lights the Way"

30 years ago Monterey led the way in lowering energy use in the US.

See the community potluck supper article on page 5.

3rd Wednesdays, October–May
6 p.m. Fellowship Hall
Monterey Church

For more information,
call Kyle Pierce, 528-9213

Robert Todisco

A recent drone shot of the library project. For more exterior photos, see page 25.

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Broadband Challenge
Basic Town Data

The town published minutes from a January 16 meeting of the broadband committee members Larry Klein, B.J. Johnson, Kenn Basler, with Adam Chait, CEO of Fiber Connect.

Information relative to the effort to build a broadband network in Monterey was included in the minutes from that meeting, and the data helps to clarify where some of the thorny issues lay.

Verizon was asked how many residences (without distinquishing between residents/non-residents) have DSL subscriptions and the committee was told 96.

To the question of full time (resident) versus second home (non-resident) owners, assessor Don Clawson provided this information:

Total number of taxable dwellings		783
Non-resident owners	569	73%
Resident owners	214	27%

Fiber Connect reported that in Phase 1, the take rate (the number of residences that have subscribed) is 38–39% . In Phase 2 the take-rate is at 43–44%. Chait attributed the difference to more DSL coverage to Phase 1 residences. He also reported that the company is profitable at a 40% take-rate. Chait also stated that Fiber Connect is not prepared to offer a seasonal subscription rate, which presumably would be attractive to non-resident owners who occupy their Monterey homes seasonally.

The Massachusetts Broadband Institute (MBI), which controls the earmarked state money to support Monterey's network buildout to 96%, is currently requiring a take rate of 51% or greater, and two years of profitable operation to qualify for the funds.

Observations

It can be seen from these few facts that:

- FC's current average take-rate is only 40–42%;
- there is a very high percentage of non-resident owners throughout town;
- FC is not offering a seasonal subscription rate (which might increase the take-rate among non-resident owners);
- and MBI is currently requiring a minimum 51% take-rate;

The take-rate among the Phase 1 and 2 homes might steadily increase over time. But the likely keys to getting MBI to release funds are some combination of:

- a much higher take-rate in the yet-to-be wired areas;
- MBI reconsidering it's high take-rate standard;
- the service becoming more attractive to potential seasonal subscribers.

A probable result of not fully wiring all, or 96%, of the town would be a digital divide which could make a difference in the quality and safety of life, and potentially lowering property values (and town tax revenues) for those homes that do not have quality high-speed broadband. Broadband has clearly become a core economic issue for south county towns with declining and aging populations.

Little wonder then that this has proven to be an extremely difficult goal to achieve.

— Stephen Moore

ॐ

Berkshire Pollinators
Conference at Simon's Rock

There will be a day of workshops at Simon's Rock on Saturday, April 13, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., sponsored by the Great Barrington Agricultural Commission, Guido's, and other local organizations. This is called a "ThinkFOOD Conference," with nine different presenters including Will Conklin of the Greenagers, and Jen Salinetti of Woven Roots Farm (a CSA in Tyringham), and notable keynote speakers. Some workshop subjects: Becoming a Home Beekeeper, Designing a Pollinator Garden, Jam Making Workshop, Managing your Soil to Save the Planet, Aquaponics, and more.

This will all take place in the Fisher Science Center at Simon's Rock. Folks can learn more at simons-rock.edu/think-food, and register for the day via email at foodconference@simons-rock.edu. The cost is $25, with students free, and a $10 lunch available. Look at the website for the day's schedule and to register. Call 528-7247 with any questions.

— Bonner McAllester

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Remembrance
Shirley Olds

Shirley Bittiner Olds, 94, long-time resident of Monterey, died peacefully Friday morning, March 1, 2019.

Born February 17, 1925, in Albany, NY, she graduated from Earlham College in Richmond, IN. She was married for sixty-six years to Storrs Fenton Olds. Her family includes her sister Beverly Ahlers, three children and their spouses: Thomas (Cheryl), Anson (Emily; Melissa), and Melinda (Rob; Brad), seven grandchildren: Mariah, Molly, Sara, Brad, Katie, Anson, Sarah; and two great-grandchildren.

Shirley was Co-Clerk of the Meeting School in NH before moving to Monterey, where she helped with the creation of the Monterey Community Center. She was a master seamstress who made clothing and quilts for her family. She was one of the original members of the Monterey Piecemakers quilting group and helped to create the town seal quilt that's hanging in town hall. Shirley was a founding member of the Southern Berkshire Friends Meeting (Quakers). Aside from her family, Shirley was most proud of ForestEdge, the beautiful home in Monterey that she and Storrs created and shared with family and friends.

A memorial was held March 16, 2019 at the Southern Berkshire Friends Meeting House, in Great Barrington.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Monterey Community Center, c/o Finnerty and Stevens Funeral Home, 426 Main Street, Great Barrington, MA 01230. Remembrances, memories and reflections may be sent to the family through www.finnertyandstevens.com.

Tribute to Shirley Olds

Fifteen years ago and more, Shirley Olds was one of the members of the Wilson House committee that was appointed by the select board and asked to find a way to make Edith Wilson and Marjorie McLaughlin's house into a beneficial municipal building. As previous efforts had stalled, the group refused to let go of what they knew was a golden opportunity for Monterey. Shirley hosted the committee's meetings at her house on Blue Hill Road, and she had the idea of inviting new and younger members to the committee. New members did join, new energy and ideas began to flow, and before long those meetings in Shirley's living room produced the plan for the project that would become the Monterey Community Center. Although the first plan was deemed too expensive and was scrapped, the seed of the vision was firmly planted. Shirley was always a steadfast believer in the community center idea and was one of those who simply would not let it fail. Through the low times and, for example, even the many months of waiting for the probate court's decision on Edith's will, Shirley displayed an unshakable confidence that the Monterey Community Center would be created, would flourish, and would become part of the lifeblood of this community. We all owe her a great deal of gratitude for her contributions.

—Joe Baker

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Remembrance
Judith Bach

Judy Bach, who made Monterey her home for nearly fifty years, died peacefully on Friday, March 1, one month before her 89th birthday.

Born Judith Irene Kaplan in the suburbs of Detroit, Michigan, on April 2, 1930, she moved to Los Angeles as a teenager and attended UC Berkeley before moving to New York City, where she graduated from Barnard College. In 1950 she met her first husband, Joseph Friedman, with whom she had three sons.

In the 1950s she worked at the famous New York jazz club, The Village Gate, moving from the coat check concession to various administrative positions. Whenever Nina Simone performed, she required that Judy act as her dresser and personal assistant.

Judy worked as an actress, performing at La MaMa Experimental Theatre Club and other venues in New York City, where she played lead roles in such plays as *No Exit*, *Peer Gynt* and *Gaslight*.

She took a job as a researcher at *MD Magazine*, where assignments about Carl Jung and Rudolph Steiner sparked her interest in psychology and spirituality.

Judy moved to Monterey in the early 70s with her second husband, folksinger Karl Finger.

Judy fell in love with Monterey and Lake Garfield at first sight. She quickly became an active member of the community, participating in town halls and events at the Monterey Church, especially in the Rev. Virgil Brallier era. She helped organize I Love Monterey Day and marched in the parade; hosted Lake Fest concerts on her grotto for the Lake Garfield boat brigade; supported local businesses, from the General Store to the Roadside Store to various farm stands around town; and cultivated an ever-growing network of friends and connected them with others in the Berkshires and around the world.

Over the years, Judy lived on Hupi Road (formerly the Harvey Bogart property) and Mount Hunger Road, eventually settling on Sylvan Road, where she built a home overlooking Lake Garfield.

She became a psychotherapist and, with her third husband, David Bach, founded the Berkshire Center for Psychosynthesis, operating out of Monterey. She earned a doctorate from Saybrook University in psychology and systems theory.

Judy became a locus of a spiritual community that formed around Agni Yoga, based on the teachings of Nicholas and Helena Roerich, and was a founder of the Center for Peace Through Culture. A painter, musician, and writer, Judy co-authored (with Nanette Hucknall) *The Rose and the Sword*, a book exploring "feminine and masculine energies that exist beyond gender and sexual identity."

Judy's joy and enthusiasm were infectious. She enjoyed drinking red wine and laughing with friends, and being in nature with her Monterey dogs, including golden retrievers Terry and Toby, Great Danes Askim and Boris (Bobo), sheep dog Zach, Lhasa apso Tashi, and border collie Dana.

Judy is survived by her three sons, Jeffrey, William and Eric Friedman; her stepson, Rudra Bach; her grandchildren, Nicholas and Hallie Friedman; her great-grandson, Leo Friedman; cousins, and a wide circle of loving friends.

ॐ

Wildlife Report, February and March

The first little tick, many fine birds, a very big animal leaving tracks, and more. No bears, so far.

This has been an exciting spring, as always, with invertebrates stirring inside and out. At our house the long-bodied cellar spiders have returned to the windows and the place where the tops of the walls meet the ceiling. This is a sure sign they expect to find food there, as they string up their webs and wait for some insect meals.

Outside, in the amazing dirt-road mud experience of mid-March, the deep ruts here were full of water, and there on the surface of these long narrow pools were the first swarms of "Jesus bugs," tiny creatures walking on the surface tension. Some years they appear first at the base of a tree, on snow, and are called "snow fleas."

Kyle and Don Pierce were "inundated with robins" at their Pittsfield place, and we've seen pine siskins here, also two male red-winged black birds, proclaiming from way up high in an ash tree. Bluebirds are in town, too, checking out the nest boxes at Steve Moore and Wendy Jensen's place on New Marlborough Road.

Now that the snow is melting, turkeys are scratching on the ground for food, and in some cases jumping for it, as at Chris Goldfinger's bird feeder where they know enough to jump up and knock seed out of a feeder set up on a pole. The tom turkeys have started their displays, fanning out big tails and strutting back and forth, dragging their wingtips a little. We have a wonderful close-up from Maureen Banner, of a turkey seen through the window (below).

Maureen also reported a serious fight between two crows in a tree over the frozen pond. Things escalated as more crows arrived, until they all fell down onto the ice below and threatened bad injuries to the crow on the bottom of the heap. The Banners sent a poodle out as peacemaker, and the crows abandoned the fray.

Dennis and Dianna Downing, who kindly set special food out on a plank for squirrels, were visited there by six raccoons all at one time. There were fresh raccoon tracks here in our driveway one day during the mid-March week of mud.

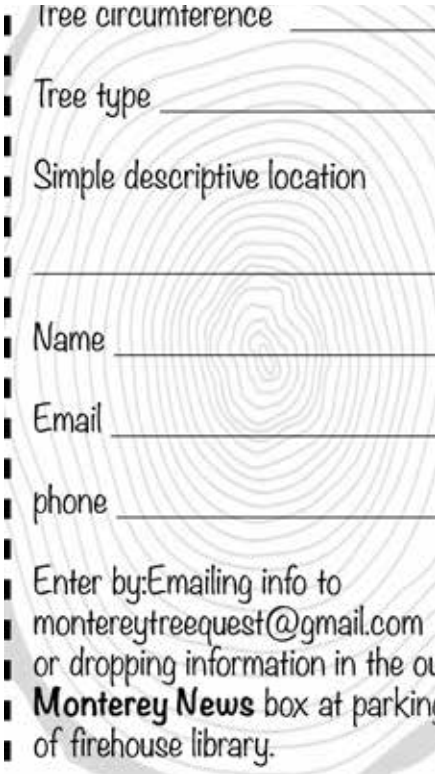
Bonsai Cox sent photographs (below) from the Stevens Pond neighborhood. We have a grey fox by night, and a red fox with a very bushy tail, headed away. Bonsai also took photographs of white-tailed deer coming around the bird feeder, finding seeds on the ground (page 14.).

David Abromowitz and Joan Ruttenberg were driving along Tyringham Road and saw a coyote off in a field. They stopped and took a short video, showing the tawny-grey coyote with a white chest and chin and its tail held low as it moved along. It was not much disturbed by their attentions.

Maureen Banner took photographs of weasel tracks in the snow, and Steve Snyder saw a likely otter trail in the snow along Rawson Brook (page 27). This trail disappeared into the water where there was an open place in the ice. Steve was also down along the brook at a time when there were great thick plates and chunks of broken ice. In the snow there he saw remarkable big tracks with a thirty-six inch stride and then some places where there were leaps of six to seven feet, from one ice-plate to another. He collected a few very fine hairs, but it is still hard to say for sure whether this might have been a cougar (also called mountain lion). But maybe!

Thank you all for your enthusiasm, your observations, your accounts.

—Bonner McAllester
528-9385 or bonnermca@gmail.com.



Arbor Day, April 26
Monterey Arbor Quest

Who doesn't love a contest, a challenge, the fun of a Quest?

Besides planting trees, we have another way for Monterey to celebrate Arbor Day on April 26. Given the abundance of trees in Monterey, why not celebrate Arbor Day by joining a Quest, a search for the oldest, which is usually the largest, living tree in town? It could be a long-lived tree that metaphorically represents the strength and resilience of our nation.

The *Monterey News* invites the people of Monterey to join in this Arbor Quest for the oldest live tree in Monterey, to continue into the summer until July 27, annual steak roast day.

So, you may ask, how do we estimate the age of a tree? Well the scientific way is to measure the number of tree rings by coring or cutting the tree trunk. For our purposes, a relatively accurate method to estimate the age of a tree (and better off for the tree) begins by determining the circumference of the tree trunk. You can use a cloth measuring tape, a flexible landscape tape, or even a length of rope. Wrap the tape or rope around the trunk at "breast height", or about 4 1/2 feet above the ground. (If you're using a rope, just measure the length it took to go around the tree.)

Dennis Lynch

This white oak (above), is 99" around, and is estimated at 157 years old.

If you report the circumference and the type of tree, we will calculate the age using published growth factors for various specific tree species. (There is a simple estimating calculator available online if you want to quickly get an idea of your tree's age. Go to tree-guide.com, and click on "Tree Age.")

If you see a large tree on someone else's property, be sure to ask their permission to measure it.

Entries

Email your tree information (the tree type, location, and circumference) from your quest to MontereyNews9@gmail.com.

Or cut out the coupon and drop it in the *Monterey News* outdoor distribution box at the parking lot outside the firehouse library.

To help identify the type of tree, several tree identification sources are available such as the *Field Guide to Trees, Eastern Region-North America*, published by the National Audubon Society.

The *News* will publish results received by the twentieth of each month, and a photo of the oldest tree found for the month. Last entries will be accepted on July 27, at the conclusion of the annual steak roast.

From the submitted information, the oldest tree will be determined and published in the August issue of the *Monterey News* with appropriate recognition given to the successful tree finders. With enough entries we might have the largest of several different types of trees.

Arbor Day Celebration

We will celebrate Arbor Day on Sunday, April 28, at the Monterey Community Center, at 2 p.m., there will be a tree planting, and perhaps other events, still being put together at this point.

For more information, send me an email.

Come join the fun and the Quest!

—Dennis Lynch
djlynch132@gmail.com

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Who's Who in Monterey
Nadia Makuc

While so many young people in the Berkshires set their future somewhere else, there are those who choose to stay. One who sees opportunity and beauty in our community is Nadia Makuc. Nadia's enthusiasm from involvement in Project 351, a community service based in each town in Massachusetts (see Nadia's article on page 3), to numerous school activities at Mt. Everett High School, to many outside interests, is undeniable. Her love for her community was boundless.

Nadia is currently an eighth grader at Mt. Everett High School. She is the youngest of five children born to Mary and Mark Makuc. Her siblings are Gabi, Joe, Justin, and Marya. Each have given much to our town. There are also many Makuc cousins who are close and enjoy spending time together, whether in Monterey or a cabin in a neighboring community. If one walks east on Main Road, you will pass the Brewer House. This is where the Makuc family history in Monterey started with Nadia's grandparents.

I was amazed at Nadia's interests and participation in school. She is involved in the Robotics Team at school, as well Model U.N., SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions), and the book club. Nadia was very excited about aquaponics and is doing an independent study on the topic. This is all about fish farming. Check it out, it is about our future.

I wondered if Nadia had time for outside interests. Yes! is the answer. Beside crafting, reading, riding horses, and helping out at Solstice Farm on Mount Hunger Road, she loves going to "the lake." Nadia described the amazing night of the recent "super moon" when she and her dad went cross country skiing on Lake Garfield. I was so taken by her wonderful experience.

As our conversation went on, Nadia also shared her involvement in local churches. Each house of worship has a special place for Nadia. Her parents were married at Our Lady of the Hills in Monterey; the family celebrates Midnight Mass and New Year's Day at the Marion Brothers in Stockbridge; and Nadia attends a youth group at St. Josephs in Stockbridge.

As the afternoon passed, we talked about Monterey for quite some time. Nadia's love for Monterey lies with the people who live here and those who spend time here. "From the beauty after a winter snowfall, to the wildlife to the summer, it is not hard to see why so many people come here." She talked about the "local treasures," such as the Bidwell House Museum, Gould Farm, the skating rink, Lake Garfield, and the community center. And looking toward the near future is the new Monterey Library.

Nadia's hope and dream for the future is to be in Monterey. "It will be like a permanent vacation." She expressed a love for the people, the woods, the lake. Even as summer leads to autumn, winter, and mud season, there are things to do. Nadia sees her future possibly as a science teacher or park ranger. Her confidence, enthusiasm, and roots in this community can only benefit the future of Monterey.

—Cheryl Zellman

Nadia at Solstice Farm

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Monterey Street Lights

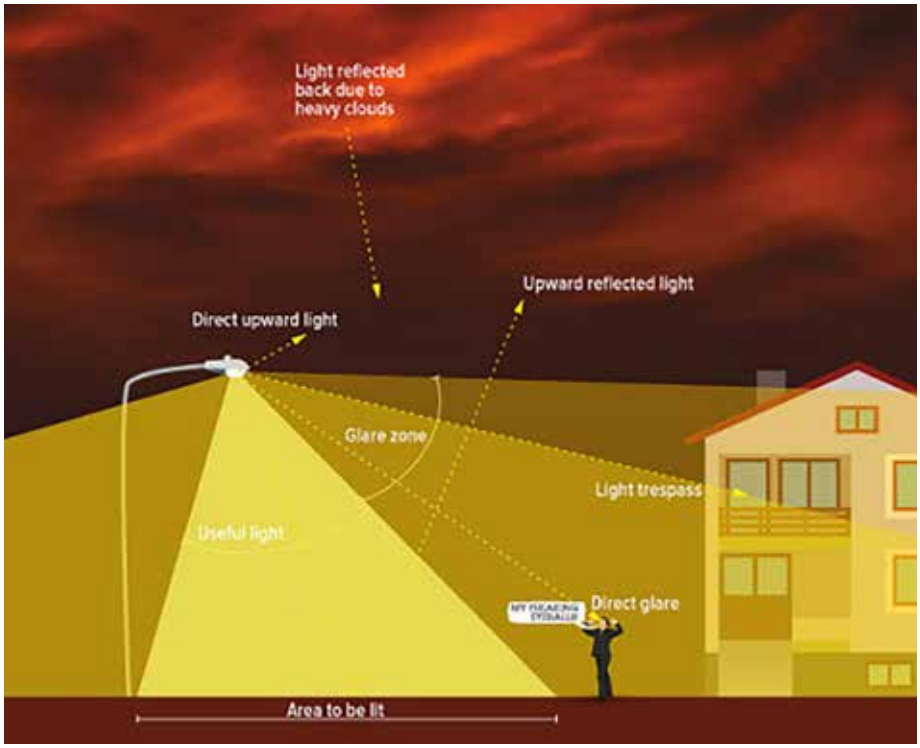
Lighting—or losing—our way

On March 20, 1886, exactly 133 years to the day when I sat down to write this column, Great Barrington made history by becoming the first town to employ alternating current electric streetlights (as I learned from a recent Simon Winchester lecture at the Community Center).

Technology has evolved since that first strand of incandescent bulbs illuminated Main Street. Fluorescents, mercury vapor, halides, and sodium vapor lights are now giving way to light emitting diodes (LEDs). These are rapidly becoming the lighting of choice because they are about twice as energy efficient and four times as long lasting as sodium vapor lights and require less maintenance.

Across Massachusetts, and the country at large, utility companies are making it easy for communities, including Monterey, to realize these advantages by retrofitting their existing fixtures to LEDs. However, the wholesale acceleration of LED usage has occurred so rapidly that it has public health and environmental experts, as well as astronomers and ordinary stargazers, very worried about the amount of light pollution this new technology, when applied inappropriately, can create.

LEDs make overlighting more affordable at a time when light pollution globally is growing at a rate of more than 2% per year. Light pollution has obscured the view of the Milky Way for 80%of the US population, and is wreaking untold damage on the circadian rhythms of living things, without actually making it easier to see in the dark.



"Useful light" illuminates the ground without causing uplight or glare. (Diagram courtesy of the Massachusetts Chapter of the Dark Sky Association.)

Monterey has been approached by National Grid about an LED retrofit, and in August of 2017, the select board signed a letter of intent with the utility that seemed like a great deal: National Grid would retrofit the twenty-two streetlights that Monterey leases from the utility with LEDs that could cut related electricity use (currently around $3100 annually) by half or more, according to Monterey administrative assistant Melissa Noes.

It is also one of the steps that would help Monterey qualify for the "Green Communities" designation, which could, in turn make the town eligible for state money to undertake additional measures to reduce energy use. However, the devil, as they say, is in the details.

The 20-watt, 4,000 K (for Kelvin, a measure of the color's warmth) diodes being offered by National Grid will look considerably brighter than those we have now, and also emit a much bluer hue than the yellow-tinted light from our sodium vapor fixtures, which are around 2200 K. A bill before the Massachusetts legislature would prohibit LED lighting above 3,000 K, and the American Medical Association warned (in 2016) that lights in this bluer range could be harmful to human health by suppressing melatonin production and disrupting circadian rhythms. This has been linked to everything from breast cancer to sleep disorders, depression, diabetes, and many other health problems.

This, of course, is not the intention of the select board. "We want to do what is appropriate for Monterey and be more energy efficient without costing the town a lot of money," said select board member

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Making Friends at a Dance

Fella: "How are you?"

Gal: "My soul is black and crumbling. Thanks. How are you?" —True story.

Carol Edelman. On March 19, she asked director of operations Shawn Tryon to find out whether other lighting options may be available through National Grid. "We want to do the right thing," she added.

Doing the right thing with lighting can be more complicated than one might expect, I have found, giving new relevance to jokes about how many people it takes to change a lightbulb. But Mark Makuc is doing his part, having directed that the flag illumination at the new library should point down rather than up to minimize light pollution. He has also revised the initial order to meet the 3,000 K threshold.

A number of factors contribute to safe and appropriate lighting, according to James Lowenthal, president of the Massachusetts Chapter of the Dark Sky Association. Overlighting is one issue, he said in an email, but several elements factor into this, including brightness, color, and shielding, and timers, dimmers, or other forms of control. Ignoring any of them can result in "bad, offensive, ugly lights, and light pollution."

The key is not more lighting, but more appropriate and better directed lighting. Lowenthal said that many towns are finding that LEDs in the 13-watt range are adequate for most street lighting, and that, as technology continues to improve, lights significantly below 3000 K are becoming more widely used.

Unless they are properly designed, the blue-spectrum LED streetlights that are being marketed to towns throughout the country paradoxically can lead to worse glare than conventional lighting. Lowenthal said that even the 3,000 K lights that are considered as the upward limit for public lighting will appear considerably brighter than our current lights, as human eyes, especially elderly ones, are more sensitive to blue light at night than during the day. This fact that becomes blindingly obvious to me when confronting super-blue headlights at night or when pulling up behind one of the newly-lit police cars at a stop.

In localities where 4000K lighting has been installed, community complaints of glare and a "prison atmosphere" created by the high intensity blue-rich lighting have forced changes. In Monterey, CA, for instance, citizens won a lawsuit asking the town to tone down its bright streetlights. Many major cities now prohibit lighting of more than 3,000 K.

At the time this went to print, National Grid did not respond to my question about why it continues to market 4,000 K lighting now that better alternatives are available, especially given the fact that street lighting standards under review by the state legislature call for warmer lighting. In Connecticut, Eversource has been supplying LEDs of 3,000 K or lower as a standard since 2016, when the AMA report warning against bluer lights came out.

A discussion of the National Grid proposal is on the list of agenda items for upcoming select board meetings. This will probably take place after the May 4 annual town meeting. And by the time the retrofit does come before the select board, it will be up to someone else to decide, since Edelman is not running in the May 7 election.

—Janet Jensen

James Taylor and Carly Simon
Together again, in Monterey!

The Monterey Cultural Council has announced a free concert with James Taylor and Carly Simon, on Wednesday, April 31, at 7 p.m., in Monterey's Greene Park. Think of this as a warm-up for James's traditional fourth of July concert at Tanglewood. There will be stadium seating erected. Be sure to arrive early.

The duo hasn't appeared together in years, and why they were willing to come to Monterey is a bit of a mystery. But, if you don't ask, you don't get.

The pair have offered to sign the sleeves of their 33 rpm vinyl albums. So bring your recordings from the 60s and 70s. For added fun, dress-up in the style of the 60s, 70s, 80s, 90s, "the aughts" (when was that?), or 10s.

Transfer Station Summer Hours

Sunday	10 a.m.–6 p.m.
Wednesday	8 a.m.–1 p.m.
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Berkshire Fish Hatchery
This Year's Derby Dates

The derby dates this year are on the second Saturday mornings—April 13, May 11, June 8, July 13, August 10, September 14.

All events are 9 to 10:30 a.m., for children thirteen and under, rain or shine. Prizes are awarded and limited equipment and assistance is available.

And while you're there, don't forget to wander up to the hatchery and observe the fish in the tanks or check out the museum room past the tanks in the low building to the left.

Winston Churchill, when looking at Griswold (above) and Fairview Roads, famously quipped, "When you are going through hell, just keep on going." (With thanks to Kit Patten. Photo by Maureen Banner.)

Thai Yoga Bodywork

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"The best massage I ever had." – E.D., Monterey

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Here's a Thought...
Roots

Mary Kate Jordan

Roots. Let's not take them for granted just because we all have them. No matter how easy they can be to trip over now and then, they're also something to celebrate.

I've always loved trees. As a kid, I'd calculate which would be best to climb, and had a special place in my heart for a specific old maple, some fruit trees, a neighbor's mountain ash, and a venerable white pine in our front yard. I'd disappear into those pine branches with a book and an apple for hours at a time.

As I grew a little older, sometimes I'd think about oxygen and carbon dioxide and I'd remember to be grateful for that smooth exchange between trees and us oxygen-breathing critters. Then I had an encounter with a tree at the Bronx Botanical Gardens.

I lived in Manhattan then, and had breezed into the Botanical Gardens on a weekend whim. I remember a sunny day and an amusing conversation which halted abruptly when I glanced across a wide open lawn.

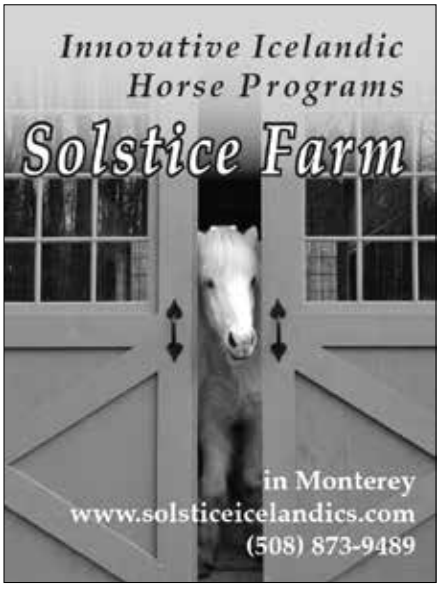
My attention locked onto a tree which stood all by itself, rich with wide, leafy branches. It stretched majestically up into the sunlight and air with a palpable vigor. I stopped to appreciate that strength and beauty and suddenly became aware of its root structure. In that flash of insight, trees came alive for me again, as powerfully and joyfully as they had been in my childhood.

I'd known that trees have roots, of course, but simply as fact, not fact translated into experience. I'd never actually understood that I'd what thought of as "a tree" was only the top of the plant. Suddenly seeing a tree felt mysterious and wonderful, something like the Oriental koan Donovan Leach used as a lyric half a century ago: First there is a mountain, then there is no mountain, then there is…. But the magic of the moment doesn't translate well.

It's just a fact in English, so the words ran as prose, not a song lyric. To truly see the visible tree standing primarily in light and air is also to know the invisible tree anchored in earth. The whole thing is 'tree', nurtured by water both above ground and below.

As my understanding dug below the surface, my appreciation of trees grew deeper, too. Even though I lived in Manhattan, they began to feel 'Velveteen-Rabbit-real' to me again, as they had when I was a girl. That moment of waking was instrumental in pulling me from the concrete city into the Berkshires.

As some of you know, in 2017 I had an enlightening and expansive encounter with a different tree. My family tree grew roots, genetic ones. They'd been there all along, of course, but they'd been hidden before. The flash of waking to them – and them waking to me – was also dramatic and



life changing. For me now, there's Before and After, like the trees' Above and Below.

My nurture family – the ones I've known all my life – couldn't have been more supportive and loving. After first meeting blood relatives, it took about eighteen months—for the Oh. My. God. factor to settle enough for me to really get rooted in this new reality. Now my experience gives me a new love and appreciation of family, in all its complex, weird and wonderful expressions, just as my Botanical Garden experience deepened my love and understanding of trees.

Now that I move from a place of being rooted, I aim to live like a tree: alive in the here and now, growing from what went before. The same way a tree can provide shade in midsummer, now I aim to provide what happiness I can for others more fully as opportunities arise.

And an opportunity arises. I invite you to join me for an introduction to Present Moment, Ancestral Roots on Wednesday, April 10, from 1 to 2:30 p.m., at the community center. It's not genealogy, but a different exploration of family and rootedness, so it's available to all, whether blood family is known, or not.

What to expect? We'll explore the concept of "radiant ancestors" as well as the words of Buddhist Master Thich Nhat Hanh on happiness and ancestry, share stories, dive into a little guided imagery, and enjoy—even sing—some songs. Not to worry about musical ability; along with the happiness theme, we'll focus on making a joyful noise. Contact me with any questions at 413-822-7681.

I hope to see you then!

—Mary Kate Jordan

At the recent demonstration at the Bidwell House Museum of Native American and early colonial period maple syrup production, Rob Hoogs boiled off sap with hot rocks in a dug out birch log, and in a iron kettle over an open fire. —Photos by Rob Hoogs.

Bidwell House Museum

Happy Spring

Mud season started in earnest last month, rendering Art School Road almost impassable by mid-March. Luckily things dried out once most of the snow was melted, and it is safe to say that we are all looking forward to seeing a little green in Monterey as the days get longer and the temperatures climb.

Behind the scenes at the museum we have been working hard on modernizing our website and planning for the 2019 season. We have a great series of programs planned that is sure to have something for everyone. Our opening celebration will be held on Sunday, May 26, at 3 p.m., with a concert by beloved local singer Diane Taraz (right). She will perform a wonderful new program titled, "A Free Woman: The Amazing Grace of Mum Bet." There will be a reception following the concert, which is free to members and $15 for non-members. You can buy tickets for the concert by calling the Museum at 413-528-6888 or going to our website (see below) under Events.

The Bidwell Country Fair will be held this year on Saturday, July 6, and we are again hosting a pie baking contest. We can't wait to see all of the delectable desserts. If you are interested in baking for this event, please contact the Museum. Returning for a second is the Open-Mic Music Fest to be held Sunday, June 30, from 3 to 7 p.m. We are looking for acts for the open-mic portion of the event, so if you or someone you know would like to participate, let us know. For the full schedule of history talks and all of the exciting programs we have planned, check out the museum website under Events.

Kathryn Roberts

Finally, the museum is looking for eight to ten interns to participate in the Young History Scholars program this summer. If you know any local high school or college students who love history and would like to know more about the inner workings of a museum, direct them to the information and application on our website bidwellhousemuseum.org under Internships. All applications are due on May 3.

—Heather Kowalski

Maple Sisters
The Reds and the Sugars

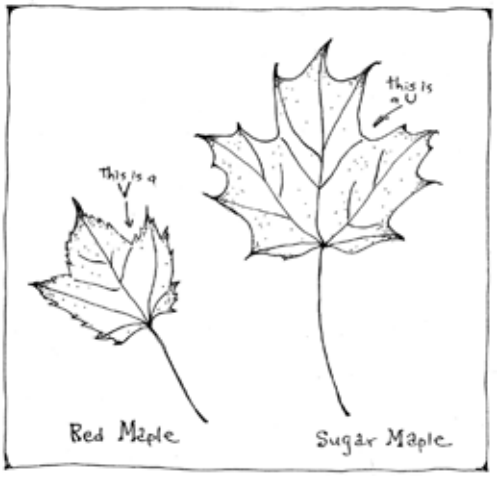
The maples! What to say first about them when there is so much that is good. In 1952, in his book *American Trees*, Rutherford H. Platt said this. "If you would see perfection, go look at the maple. It is like truth made into the form of a tree."(Dodd, Mead, and Company, NY.)

What a remarkable thing to say, in print, in a small book that is a field guide. Often such portable identifiers are not much for poetry or existentialism, cutting back to just the facts. This one will fit into a pocket, or would have before the coming of tight jeans, and yet it carries the author's photographs, prose, and color plates, as well as a "Guide to the Quick Identification of Trees," organized by leaves, seeds and fruit, twigs, and then smell, taste, flowers, bark, needles, and cones. I will quote him again, this time from the very first page.

"Take any tree. Hang a sign on it announcing, *Something marvelous is going on here!* Everyone who has the least sense of wonder will stop to find out what is going on."

Here in New England, in the spring, we think right away of our sugar maples, *Acer saccharum*. Plenty has been written about them, and folks all over associate this maple with pancakes and syrup, and with New England. There are other maples here, about seven different kinds altogether. Walking in the woods, folks with "the least sense of wonder" will spot the sugar maple's close sister, *Acer rubrum*, the red maple. The sugar makers don't drill holes in her and hang up buckets for sap. They could, but the actual sugar maple is more productive of sugar, per gallon of sap, so that is the one the tappers look for.

The easiest way to tell red from sugar is to look at the leaves. Rutherford Platt tells us we can often find them growing near each other, making it easy to pick up both kinds of leaves and note the difference. Sometimes a mnemonic device helps. All maple leaves have a palmate shape.



So hold out your palm, fingers spread, and notice the space between thumb and forefinger. It is rounded, like a U. This is the shape of the spaces between the pointy lobes of the sugar maple leaf. The word "sugar" carries a handy U in its spelling. The red maple leaf has no U's in the angles between the lobes, rather V's. Sugar maple: U. Red maple: not. Rather a V.

As for redness, red maples take the lead with this color, in the twigs at any time of year, in the big buds, and in the flowers. The red maple blooms before the sugar maples, and before its own leaves are out. The bulging flower buds are fat, and Platt writes, "their red, gold, orange sparkling with sap when starting to open is a sight you would want to go halfway around the world to see." Once open, the red stamens shoot out making each flower a pom-pom, so pretty against the sky. These are the "male" flowers. The "females" are red or orange, and by May have developed pairs of samaras, or what we often call maple keys. Each has a wing and carries a seed. They break from the tree and whirl down like helicopters.

Red maple keys are small, and red especially along the edges. One year my band was playing at the end-of-year picnic at a local day school, and the red maples were shedding their seeds. My instrument is a big shallow box with eighty strings called a hammered dulcimer. Those pretty little keys fell right through the strings and decorated the soundboard for years.

Red maple seeds are ready to germinate soon after they leave the tree. This is one of the ways this tree succeeds so well. No waiting around, no risking fall harvest by squirrels or chipmunks. Red maples are also called "swamp maples," and they do grow well in very wet places. In the fall, it is the swamps that turn red first, thanks to all those maples with their bright red leaves. They also do well up on the dry ridges. Red maples are adaptable. You can dig them up and plant them along city streets, or in the yard.

Look for a maple. The pattern of branching and budding is "opposite," with twigs growing right opposite each other on the branches. Many kinds of trees have "alternate branching," with a bud on the right and no bud on the left. A little farther along there is a bud on the left and none on the right. The device for remembering which have the opposite budding pattern is "M.A.D. horse," for maple, ash, dogwood and horse chestnut. Of these, it is only the maples that have such fat, fat buds.

Here is one more tree treasure from Rutherford Platt.

"The spirit of a tree is our spirit. Its art is our art. Its color, designs, and the value of its wood and fruit are ours. If you would discover what kind of life is hidden in the shadows of leaves, and behind the tough, silent bark, you must find it within yourself. Name tags and identifying features can only point the way."

—Bonner McAllester

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Annual Fund Appeal

Below are the names from contributions to the *Monterey News* from the annual appeal received by mid-March. We thank everyone for your support.

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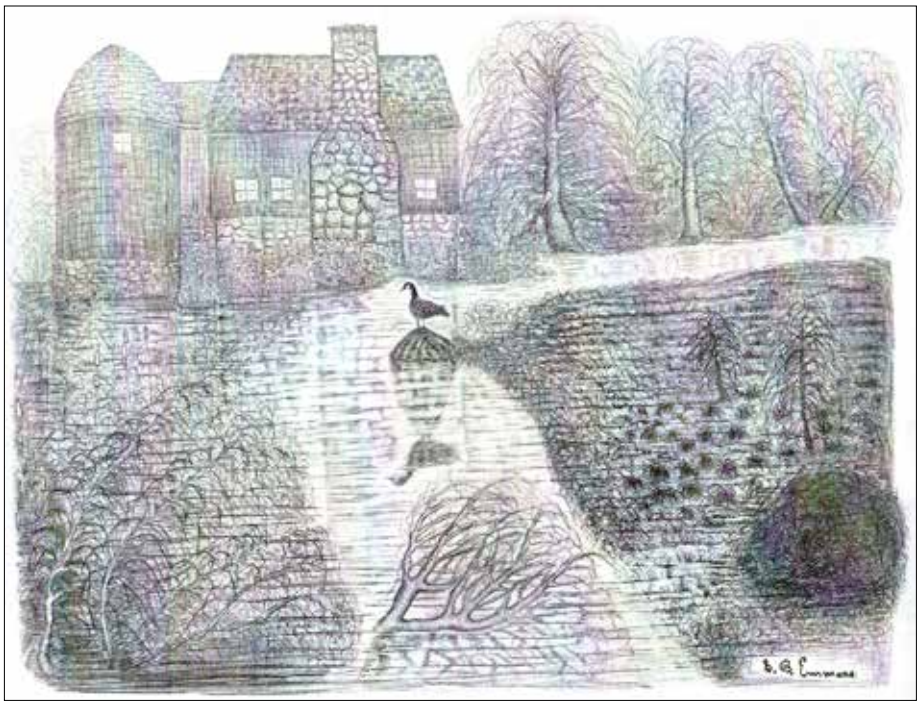
Continued on page 25

The Residual Canada Goose



The Canada Goose was not part of the year-round winter landscape fifty years ago in 1969, when I wrote my very first wildlife article for the Acorn Press in Ridgefield CT., a short walk around the corner from our house. That article was written at a time before today's public awareness of global warming. Geese were still migrating south and north, often for a thousand miles or more. My story was about the springtime return of a single gander to the previous year's nesting site, without his mate. Somehow and somewhere along the long arduous journey, they had become separated. He seemed to be hopefully waiting for her to return, by the side of a picturesque old grist mill pond, as illustrated.

The ordeal of arduous migration is no longer such a necessary hazardous journey as it was. Now it seems many geese have adapted to an expanded, more year-round temperate zone of our warming climate. Here at my new location on Buzzards Bay, they can be said to be residual, non-migratory, inhabitants, for the entire winter along the coastline of Sconticut Neck, in Fairhaven. They will soon be nesting here to raise four or more goslings at the water's edge. We enjoy watching, as they lead their fledglings up to our back lawn to eat grass. Each goose is able to devour up to seventy blades in a single hour. From such a persistent and gluttonous harvesting, while leaving such a subsequent mess behind (from one to three pounds of droppings a day), geese have been labeled as pests, at town beaches, as in Monterey, as well as parks and playing fields.

However, we are somewhat fortunate that many of their numbers still seasonally migrate along traditional routes of thousands of miles, south and now north. These transitioning flocks can sometimes be seen in very different formations. They fly high overhead in in long V and W shaped formations. Each position in the formation appears in line evenly spaced apart. They consistently hold that station, with only minor movement in flight between members. They may change places to relieve the wind breaking efforts of the leader. The flock purposely echoes the leader's bugle call, up and down the line. Gradually, the cacophony fade away into the distance, perhaps to an unknown destination.

It is often said that Canada Geese are just one of the species that mate for life, especially evident when both the male and female grow old as a mated pair. Some birds become lifelong partners, as pairs form into devoted, tireless togetherness. This stems from a reproductive imperative for nesting, feeding, and raising offspring. The mother, especially, will also risk her own life, to distract a predator way from her offspring, while the males may directly attack perceived threats. When one in a pair is lost, their emotion is recognizable and can be measured as similar to humans. Levels of chemicals in their bodies associated with emotional experiences have been identified as similar within humans. Two such chemicals are oxytocin for emotion, and cortisol for the stress hormone. The same is true for some other creatures.

One day on my regular afternoon walk around the old mill pond, the gander was gone. He could no longer be seen as possibly a lonely sentinel of paired avian fidelity. I like to think he had been drawn up by a higher calling we sometimes feel in our own lives. He may have been swept up by the planetary movement through time and space, out of the past, and into the future, from the season of winter, into the coming of another spring.

—George B. Emmons

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From the MontereyMassLibrary.org renovation project photo blog.

Annual Fund Appeal, cont.

Rudy Gero
Joel Nowak & Wendy Lebowitz
William Bennett
Judith & Simeon Brinberg
Janet Cathcart
Joe & Rhonda Daponte
Randy & Adrian Gelbard
Maureen B. Haugh
Chris & Kim Hines
Suzanne Hoppenstedt
Janet & Hillel Maximon
Lauren Paul
Evelyn Sun & Michael Solomon
Paul Thorn

Town Contact Information

Emergency! 911
Administrative Assistant:
528-1443 x111
admin@montereyma.gov
(for town boards and misc. questions)
Assessor: 528-1443 x115
assessors@montereyma.gov
Building Department: 528-1443 x118 buildingsafety@montereyma.gov
Community Center: 528-3600
center@ccmonterey.org
Fire Department (non-emergency): 528-3136
chief@montereyma.org
Highway Department: 528-1734
dpw1@montereyma.gov
Library: 528-3795
montereylibrary@gmail.com
Police Department (non-emergency): 528-3211, Alt./Emergency 528-3211
mpdchief@montereyma.gov
Post Office: 528-4670
SBRSD (Schools) 413-229-877
Tax Collector: 528-1443 x117
montereytax@yahoo.com
(for questions about your tax bill)
Town Clerk: 528-1443 x113
clerk@montereyma.gov
Town website: Montereyma.gov, under each department, for office hours.

Select Board Corner

Welcome to the Select Board Corner. Our goal is to submit an article each month to the *Monterey News* to keep everyone up to date on important issues, office closings, highway projects, etc.

MontereyMA.gov

Our town website is a great way to access information about the town.

Meetings and Events

Board of Health: Monday, April 1, at 4 p.m.
Conservation Commission: Wednesday, April 10, at 6 p.m.
Council on Aging: Mondays, April 8 and 22, at 10 a.m.
Visiting Nurse: Berkshire VNA will be here on Thursday, April 11, from 2 to 3 p.m. No appointment necessary.
Parks Commission: Wednesday, April 3, at 6 p.m.
Planning Board: Thursdays, April 11 and 25, at 7 p.m.
Select Board: Wednesdays, April 3, at 9 a.m., and April 17, at 4 p.m. Please call 528-1443 x111 to be placed on the agenda.

All meetings will be held in the town hall unless otherwise noted.

Town Hall Closings

Most individual office closings are posted on the town calendar and on the department's voicemail message. We recommend always calling ahead.

The administrative assistant's office will be closed to attend procurement training on Tuesday, April 9 through Thursday, April 11. Town Hall will be closed Monday, April 15, for Patriot's Day.

From the Tax Collector's Office:

The fiscal year 2019 real estate and personal property fourth quarter tax bills have been mailed and are due May 1. If you do not receive your bill, please contact the tax collector's office at (413) 528-1443 x117. This is the final bill of the fiscal year, and bills not paid on or before May 1 will be assessed a $5.00 late fee, as well as interest.

To accommodate taxpayers who want the convenience of paying Monterey real estate and personal property taxes online, an online payment option is available. To pay your tax, you must have your current bill and checkbook/credit card in hand. Log on to montereyma.gov and click on Pay Taxes Online. You will need to enter your current bill number and the current bill year (2019). The bank will assess a minimal fee of $0.25 per transaction. MasterCard, Visa, and Discover credit cards will be accepted. Please note the credit card company will charge the taxpayer a fee for the service. This fee is not assessed by or paid to the Town of Monterey.

Credit cards are now accepted for payment of any bill in the tax collector's office. The card must be swiped in the tax collector's office so this service is not available online or over the phone. Again, a fee will be assessed to the taxpayer for credit card payment.

Questions regarding personal property, assessments, or exemptions should be directed to the board of assessors at (413) 528-1443 x115.

—Mari Enoch
Tax Collector

— Carol Edelman, Chair
Kenn Basler and Don Coburn
Monterey Select Board
(carol@montereyma.gov)
(kenn@montereyma.gov)
(don@montereyma.gov)
For general inquiries, please click "Contact Us" at www.montereyma.gov

Transfer Station Summer Hours

Sunday	10 a.m.–6 p.m.
Wednesday	8 a.m.–1 p.m.
Saturday	8 a.m.–1 p.m.

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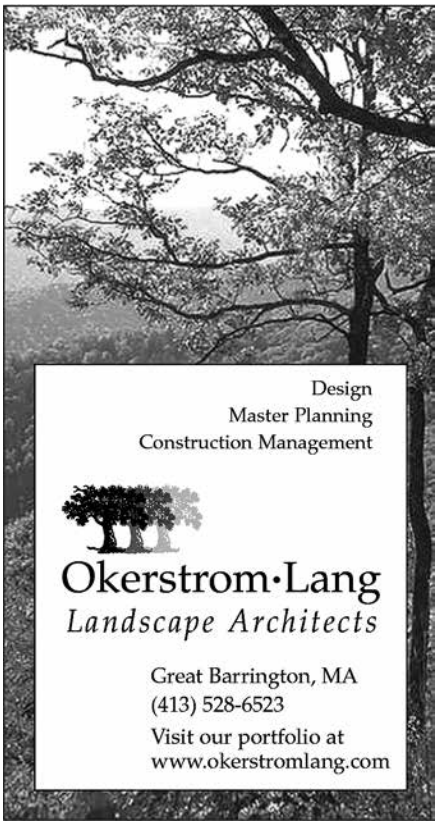

April Calendar

Tuesdays:

Chair yoga, with Connie Wilson, 9 a.m., community center. Sponsored by the parks commission.

Cards and games, 1 p.m., community center.

Thursdays:

April 4 and 18: Darn Yarners, 1 to 3 p.m., community center. See page 5.

April 4 and 18: Ping pong, 3:30 to 5:30 p.m., community center. See page 5.

Fridays: Cards and games, 1 p.m., community center.

Saturdays: April 13 and 27: Ping pong, 2 to 4 p.m., community center. See page 5.

Wednesdays, April 3, 10, and 17: Learn to knit classes. 4 to 5:30 p.m. See page 5.

Saturday, April 6: Berkshire Earth Expo. See page 4.

Tuesday, April 9: Movie night at 7 p.m., at town hall. See page 4.

Thursday, April 11: Council on Aging lunch at the Roadside, at 12:30.

Saturday, April 13:

Berkshire Hatchery fishing derby, 9 to 10:30 a.m. See page 19.

ThinkFOODConference, 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Simon's Rock. See page 12.

Wednesday, April 17: Community potluck supper, 6 p.m., church basement. See page 5.

Maureen Banner took photographs of weasel tracks in the snow.

To subscribe to a printable monthly calendar via email, write to monterey-news9@gmail.com, and put "calendar email" in the subject line or text area. Print it (one page) and forward it.

Saturday, April 20: Lenox Contra Dance. Music by Stomp Rocket, with calling by Sheffield's Hannah Chamberlain. 8 to 11 p.m., beginners session at 7:45. Lenox Community Center, 65 Walker St. Lenox-ContraDance.org. Contact 528-4007.

Sunday, April 21: Easter egg hunt, 1 p.m., in the village area. See page 11.

Monday, April 22: Adult book group, 7:30 p.m., community center. *The House on Beartown Road*, by Elizabeth Cohen.

Wednesday, April 24: Climate Change Consciousness, video. 7 p.m.

Thursday, April 25: Climate Change Consciousness, video. 7 p.m.

Sunday, April 28: Arbor Day tree planting ceremony, community center. See page 5.

Wednesday, April 31: Free concert, James Taylor and Carly Simon, Greene Park, 7 p.m. See page 19.

Monterey News

The *Monterey News* is an independent nonprofit corporation dedicated to fostering communication in the Monterey community. We invite signed letters, articles, drawings, poetry, and photographs. Submissions may be sent via email to montereynews9@gmail.com or to PO Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245.

For advertising rates or other information, contact the Editor at 413-528-4007 or email.

Police Emergency Contacts

- For real emergencies, call **911**.
- The email address for the dispatch service is

  dispatch@sdb.state.ma.us.

- Police dispatch service number

  413-236-0925.

- For non-emergencies to contact the Monterey Police Department, call

  528-3211.

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Contributions from local artists this month:
Maureen Banner, p. 2; George Emmons, p. 24;
Bonner McAllester, p. 22.

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